

U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the  
Western District of North Carolina  
Case Management /Electronic Case Files Update

**Survey Results:** Two surveys produced by the court's *CM/ECF Publicity Committee* have been distributed to members of the local bar. The first is the "*CM/ECF Readiness Survey*" designed to provide the court and law firms with information to assess the bar's preparedness for the judiciary's new replacement *Case Management / Electronic Case Filing (CM/ECF)* system. As of May 19 a total of 49 surveys had been returned to the court. The results of those surveys are available on our website.

The second survey is a "*PC Skills Survey*" which was designed to aid the bar in assessing individual skills needed by their staff to use *CM/ECF*.

Both surveys are located on the court's website at [www.ncwb.uscourts.gov](http://www.ncwb.uscourts.gov) and available at the Intake Counter in the Charlotte and Asheville offices.

**Alpha Responsibilities:** A draft "national" *CM/ECF* implementation plan was prepared by an outside agency under supervision of the Administrative Office (AO) with extensive input from the prototype courts. The plan reflects basic issues and responsibilities regarding the configuration, functionality, and installation of the system. The Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of North Carolina, along with the other alpha and prototype courts continue to participate in conferences with the AO and the Technology Training and Support Division (TTSD) concerning the application and training, as well as national implementation guides and time lines.

**Prototype vs. Version One:** Since January, 2000 the court has maintained limited access to a "prototype" (original design) database which resides at TTSD in San Antonio, Texas. With this database we have been able to build our own unique "dictionary" (docket events). In June, 2000 we received our hardware and installed the operating system, and will soon begin installing the application software.

"Version One" of *CM/ECF* completed internal testing by the AO May 23, 2000. TTSD completed installation testing and sent the application to the AO's Independent Test Center (ITC) in early June for testing. As an alpha court we are very proud that several of our staff will travel to Phoenix, Arizona in July and August to assist with testing of Version One before release of the application to the remaining alpha courts.

In conjunction with ITC testing, TTSD will continue to work with the prototype and alpha courts to upgrade and convert their existing systems to Version One of *CM/ECF*.

After conversion of our existing data to the new system, modifications to our “dictionary”, and several weeks of testing, we estimate that we will be “live” on Version One of *CM/ECF* in the fall of 2000.

**Training:** All court staff and have completed the Computer Based Training (CBT) modules and provided feedback to TTSD. Several attorneys and trustees have visited the court’s training room and completed select modules. TTSD is currently converting these modules to Version One screens and hopefully will be available on CD for attorneys and trustees by late summer or early fall.

Court staff will begin docketing cases in our prototype test database in mid July. They will become familiar with the unique functionality of our system, analyze the existing dictionary and offer recommendations for modifications.